4. For improvement of Science Education, 557 High/Higher Secondary Schools are being provided with Laboratory equipment and science books. Science kits are being supplied to 1669 upper primary schools.

5. Under Rural Functional Literacy Project, Jan Shikshan Nilayams are being set up and books, magazines and dailies are being provided to the Nilayams.

Talks with Bangladesh regarding Flood control Measures

3183. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether an Indian delegation visited Bangladesh on 18th November, 1988 to hold talks on long term and short term flood control measures;

(b) if so, what are the details of discussions held between the two countries; and

(c) what is the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO): (a) to (c) The Indo-Bangladesh Task Force met in Dhaka from November 18 to 20. During the meeting the task force held detailed discussions and agreed on the work programme and time-frame for completing the task. The task force identified the short term and long-term areas of cooperation for formulating structural and non-structural measures for flood management.

Enhanching the age of Retirement of Delhi School Teachers

3184. SHRI NARESH C. PUGLIA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the age of retirement of the Government School teachers in Delhi is proposed to be raised from 60 years to 65 years; and

(b) if so, by when the orders are likely to be issued in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI L. P. SHAHI): (a) As per Delhi Administration, no such proposal is under consideration.

(b) Does not arise.

Setting up of Kendriya Vidyalaya at Howrah

3185. SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received a proposal for opening a Kendriya Vidyalaya at Government of India Press Colony, Santragachi, Howrah, West Bengal;

(b) whether Government have accorded sanction therefor;

(c) if not, what are the reasons therefor;

(d) whether Ministry of Urban Development had offered vacant flats at GIP Colony for housing the proposed Kendriya Vidyalaya till a permanent building is constructed; and

(e) if so, what is the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI L. P. SHAHI): (a) to (e) Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan has received a proposal from Central Government Employees Welfare Co-ordination Committee, Calcutta for opening a Kendriya Vidyalaya at Santragachi.

No final decision has been taken in the matter.

Loans by Air India from International Banks

3186. SHRI K. V. THANGKABALU: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Air India propose to raise loans from international banks for acquisition of aircraft; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and the progress made in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) and (b) Air India has signed two agreements for financing the acquisition of two B-747-300 (Combi) aircraft. The first is a loan of US$ 160 million from a group of Japanese Banks and the second is under a lease finance agreement through Citi Bank, Tokyo amounting to US$ 115 million.

Annual losses of the Railways due to accidents

3187. SHRI K. V. THANGKABALU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of annual losses suffered by railways due to accidents during the last three financial years;

(b) whether there has been a failure on the part of the RDSO and other railway research organisations in preventing these accidents; and

(c) if so, what steps are being taken to revamp these organisations for better performance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAV RAO SCINDIA): (a) The loss suffered by the Railways on account of damage to railway property due to consequential train accidents during the last three years is as under:—

1985-86—Rs.	11.45 crores
1986-87—Rs.	16.40 crores.
1987-88—Rs.	11.09 crores (approximately)

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Superannuation medical examination for Air Hostesses in Air India

3188. SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the air hostesses in Air India are required to go in for superannuation medical examination, at the age of 35;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is a fact that the representative of Air India had informed the Supreme Court that this medical examination was only a formality and the extension was automatic; and

(d) if so, the names of air hostesses who have been denied continuation of service after completing 35 years during 1987-88?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) and (b) According to Clause 47 of Air India Employees Service Regulations, extension of service of an employee is subject to his/her being medically fit. In the case of air-hostesses, the retirement age is 35 years. From that age until superannuation from the services of the Corporation, airhostesses are required to undergo superannuation medical examination annually.